

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of selecting an access network from among
2 one or more access networks capable of providing service to
3 a mobile communication station, the method comprising:

4 receiving a request for access to an access network,
5 said request including at least one service requirement;

6 determining an availability of each of at least one
7 access network based on said at least one service requirement;

8 selecting, based on one or more user preferences,
9 an access network determined to be available from said at
10 least one access network; and

11 accessing said selected access network.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 selecting a service type in said selected access network based
3 on said user preferences.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 retrieving said user preferences from a user profile stored
3 in said mobile communication station.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 retrieving said user preferences from a subscriber
3 identification module.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 manually entering said user preferences via a man-machine
3 interface.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said user
2 preferences include a lowest service cost.
3

1 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said user
2 preferences include a minimum power consumption.
3

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 determining step includes continuously scanning a broadcast
3 pilot signal from each access network.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 determining step includes estimating a status of said mobile
3 communication station within each access network.

1 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one service requirement includes a bit rate requirement.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one service requirement includes a maximum transfer
3 delay.

1 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one service requirement includes a maximum frame error
3 rate.

1 13. A mobile communication station capable of accessing
2 multiple access networks, comprising:

3 a transceiver capable of sending and receiving radio
4 signals to and from said multiple access networks; and

5 a processing unit connected to said transceiver and
6 capable of executing a software program, said software program
7 configured to:

8 receive a request to access an access network
9 from an application executed by said processing
10 unit, said request including at least one service
11 requirement;

12 determine an availability of each access
13 network based on said at least one service
14 requirement; and

15 select an access network from said available
16 access networks based on one or more user
17 preferences.

1 14. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is further configured
3 to report said access network selection information to said
4 application.

1 15. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is further configured
3 to select a service type in said selected access network based
4 on said user preferences.

1 16. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is further configured
3 to retrieve said user preferences from a user profile stored
4 in said mobile communication station.

1 17. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is further configured
3 to retrieve said user preferences from a subscriber
4 identification module.

1 18. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is further configured
3 to accept manually entered user preferences via a man-machine
4 interface.

1 19. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said user preferences include a lowest
3 service cost.
4

1 20. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said user preferences include a minimum
3 power consumption.
4

1 21. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is configured to allow
3 said application to select an access network based on said
4 availability of said access networks.

1 22. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is configured to
3 continuously monitor a broadcast pilot signal from each access
4 network to determine said access network availability.

1 23. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said software program is configured to
3 estimate a status of said mobile communication station within
4 each access network to determine said access network
5 availability.

1 24. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said at least one service requirement
3 includes a bit rate requirement.

1 25. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said at least one service requirement
3 includes a maximum transfer delay.

1 26. The mobile communication station according to
2 claim 13, wherein said at least one service requirement
3 includes a maximum frame error rate.